Goods and services tax

3761. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what are the milestones envisaged in the development of Goods and Services Tax by 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): The Government has declared its intention to introduce Goods and Services Tax (GST) with effect from 01 April, 2010. Accordingly, in May 2007, it was decided that the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) would work with the Central Government to prepare a roadmap for introducing GST in the country with effect from 01 April, 2010. EC had set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising officials of the Central Government and State Governments, which studied the various models of GST existing globally and other relevant material available on the subject. In November 2007, the JWG submitted its report to EC for their consideration of the suggested design framework and implementation of roadmap for introduction of GST in India. The Report submitted by JWG is presently under deliberation within the EC.

Hike in prices of essential commodities and taxes

3762. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's policy is to check the hike in prices of the commodities or to increase the tax charges in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the hike in prices of commodities/essential commodities during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of hike of taxes during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) how far Government has been benefited due to hike in taxes and public suffered; and

(e) the steps expected to be taken to stop the hike in prices for the safety of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The details of annual average price increase of 30 essential commodities are indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Year-on-year average inflation of 30 essential commodities (%)

Items	Weight	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08P
1	2	3	4	5
All commodities	100.00	4.4	5.4	4.5
Essential commodities	17.63	4.3	6.1	2.2
Rice	2.45	3.8	2.9	6.8
Wheat	1.38	4.0	13.0	4.3
Gram	0.22	14.5	32.9	-4.3
Arhar	0.13	-4.6	6.6	14.1
Potatoes	0.26	17.3	17.7	10.3